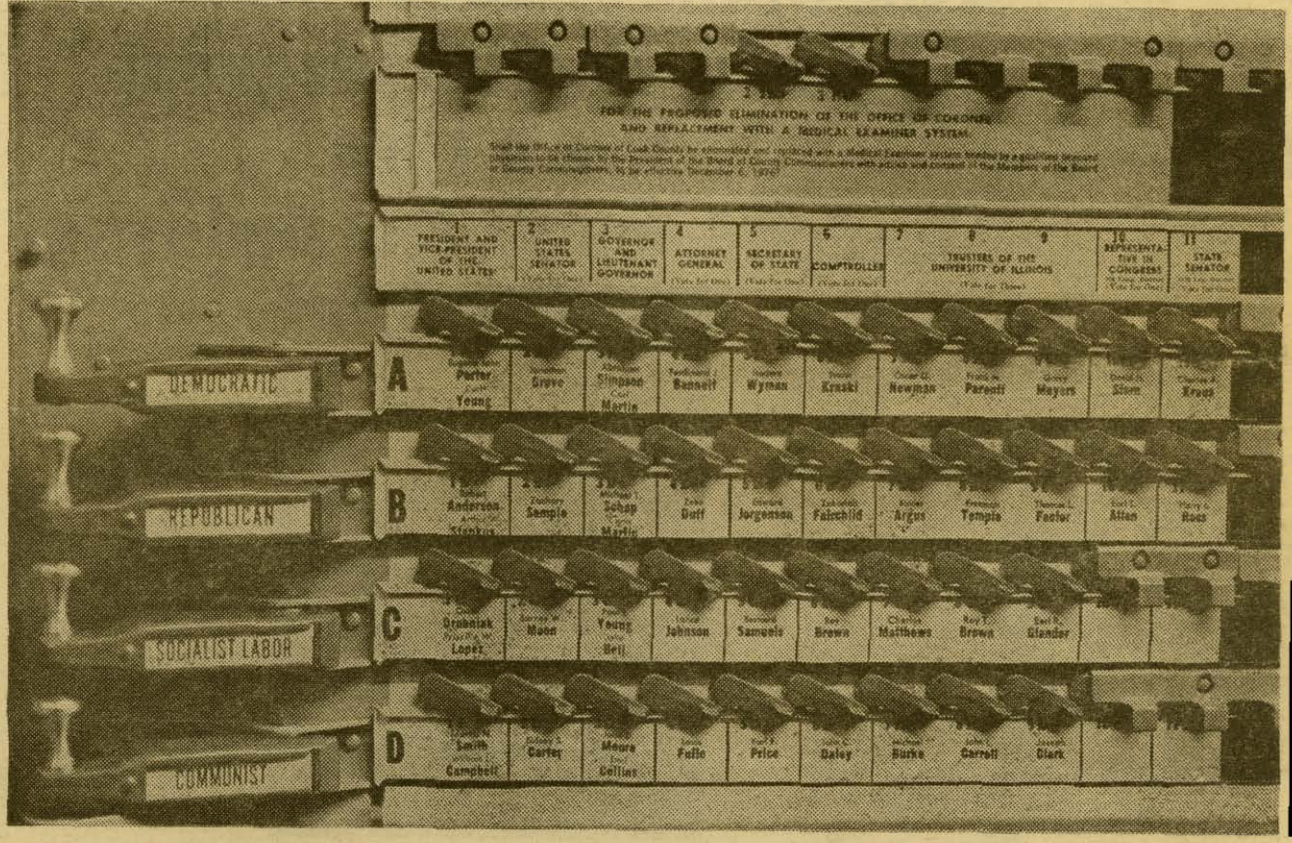

How to use city voting machines

This is the type of voting machine used in Chicago, Cicero, Stickney, Berwyn and Lyons, featuring a horizontal ballot. To vote a straight ticket, pull the lever (left) of the party of your choice. To vote a split ticket, vote for each candidate individually, pulling down the lever above the name of each candidate you favor. (Sun-Times Photos)

'Mr. Average Voter' is still undecided

Sun-Times Bureau

WASHINGTON — Richard J. Johnson of Rolling Meadows, Ill., public television's Mr. Average Voter, said Monday that he is no longer "undecided, leaning to President Nixon," but is now "undecided."

Johnson, 43, a credit manager at the National Steel Service Center in Evanston, was selected by national public television to represent the nation's millions of middle-income voters. He was the subject of television programs in January and September.

In September, after spending a week aboard Sen. George McGovern's campaign plane, Johnson reported that he was "undecided, leaning toward President Nixon."

Within the last month, he said in a telephone interview, he began to think that Mr. Nixon's peace maneuverings were campaign gestures and that is what made him stop leaning.

"There is no question, if a peace settlement had been made before tomorrow (Tuesday), I would definitely have voted for Sen. McGovern," he said.

Since no peace settlement has been signed, Johnson said he is confused whether Mr. Nixon could have achieved a Vietnam settlement earlier.

On election eve, Johnson repeated that his first choice for President was Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who he thinks can "get the job done" where McGovern can't.

"Of course, Sen. Kennedy will be in there running four years from now," Johnson said.

Meanwhile, "I've got to make up my mind who to vote for (this year) by 7:30 in the morning." He said he is also not yet sure whether he will reveal his choice.